United Nations A/71/192

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 August 2016
English
Original: Spanish

Seventy-first session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the seventy-first session

Observer status for the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America in the General Assembly

Letter dated 27 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on behalf of Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Spain and Uruguay, the inclusion in the agenda of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Observer status for the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America in the General Assembly".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum (annex I), the basic documentation (the founding agreement) (annex II), the headquarters agreement (annex III)) and a draft resolution (annex IV) are attached.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Román **Oyarzun**
Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations

16-13243 (E) 150816 160816

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Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

International Youth Organization for Ibero-America

I. Introduction

In its decision 49/426 dated 9 December 1994, adopted without a vote, the General Assembly decided that the granting of observer status in the Assembly should in future be confined to States and to those intergovernmental organizations whose activities cover matters of interest to the Assembly. The decision was taken on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, taking note of the oral report presented to the Sixth Committee on 25 November 1994 by the Chairman of the Working Group on the question of criteria for the granting of observer status in the Assembly.

Taking into account the above-mentioned resolution, we submit that the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America (OIJ) is an international organization based in Madrid, Spain with permanent offices in Buenos Aires and Panama City. It was established in 1992 by a political collaboration agreement between the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI) and the Ibero-American Youth Conference. In 1996, at the eighth Ibero-American Conference of Ministers for Youth, the institution was established as an international organization, then known as the Ibero-American Youth Organization.

In existence for 20 years, the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America is the only public international youth organization in the world, and, inter alia, has spearheaded the drafting of the first international treaty on the protection of the rights of youth, the Ibero-American Convention on Youth Rights.

Consisting of the 21 countries that make up the Ibero-American region, the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America works to formulate and implement public policies, opening channels of participation to include young people in decision-making and promote their role in social transformation processes. It also provides technical and political support for the development of public institutions responsible for youth affairs in each country, referred to as "official youth organizations".

The International Youth Organization for Ibero-America likewise works to produce and disseminate knowledge, create synergies between various social actors in order to promote regional cooperation initiatives and promote greater linkages with the international organizations, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, development banks, civil society organizations and other stakeholders in Ibero-America.

II. Members

The membership of the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America consists of Latin American and European countries representing various legal, economic and political systems. It is currently composed of the following 21 States: Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras,

Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Portugal, Spain and Uruguay.

III. Structure

The Ibero-American Conference of Ministers for Youth is the highest decision-making body of the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America. It determines the general policy and course of action and serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences. It consists of the 21 official delegations of member States, each led by Government officials in charge of youth affairs.

The Governing Council, an organ of the Ibero-American Conference of Ministers for Youth entrusted with policy decisions related to governance, is tasked with adopting the necessary agreements to develop the guidelines adopted by the Ministers and consists of officials responsible for youth affairs from seven member countries.

The General Secretariat is in charge of the organization's political and institutional representation and its technical and administrative governance, appointed to perform those duties by the Ibero-American Conference of Ministers for Youth and the Governing Council. Its duties include structuring and implementing the programme of work and the annual budget, reporting regularly to member States on the level of implementation.

IV. How the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America would benefit if granted observer status in the General Assembly

Observer status in the General Assembly would enable the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America to initiate and increase the frequency of deliberations on youth affairs within the various United Nations entities, the Assembly being the most representative among them.

It would help sharpen the focus on the integral role of youth in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, which are supported by the organization and constitute an integral part of its planned activities.

Lastly, it would highlight the importance of fostering close ties between the organization and the General Assembly by establishing action plans that facilitate greater coordination of international cooperation on youth affairs.

V. How the United Nations would benefit by granting observer status in the General Assembly to the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America

Implementation of the organization's action plans will strengthen the principles and values proposed by the United Nations, especially with regard to attaining and guaranteeing rights within democratic and cohesive societies, from the standpoint of a comprehensive approach to youth.

Granting the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America observer status would also allow the General Assembly to contemplate a society able to develop and to increase the existing expertise on youth affairs.

Additionally, that would enable the General Assembly to recognize the particular dynamic of the Ibero-American Community which also represents the reality in a number of Member States of the United Nations system.

Lastly, such a decision would foster a political and technical agreement aimed at facilitating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America, Spain and Portugal.

Annex II

Founding document of the Ibero-American Youth Organization

I. Present:

The plenipotentiary representatives of the Argentine Republic, the Republic of Bolivia, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Colombia, the Republic of Costa Rica, the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Cuba, the Dominican Republic, the Republic of Ecuador, the Republic of El Salvador, the Kingdom of Spain, the Republic of Guatemala, the Republic of Honduras, the United Mexican States, the Republic of Nicaragua, the Republic of Panama, the Republic of Paraguay, the Republic of Peru, the Republic of Portugal, the Eastern Republic of Uruguay and the Republic of Venezuela;

II. Whereas:

1. Since 1985, which was proclaimed the International Year of Youth by the United Nations system, the official youth organizations of Ibero-American countries have convened successive workshops and intergovernmental conferences on development programmes targeting youth, including the seven intergovernmental conferences on youth held in Madrid (1987); Buenos Aires (1988); San José (1989); Quito (1990); Santiago de Chile (1991); Seville, Spain (1992) and Punta del Este, Uruguay (1994);

2. At those meetings, Governments demonstrated their ongoing interest in issues related to international cooperation and the development of shared policies that would prosper future generations of Ibero-American peoples;

3. The Seville and Punta del Este conferences, convened under the title of Ibero-American Conference of Ministers for Youth, brought together ministers responsible for youth affairs in Ibero-American countries and discussed important agreements on youth policies in Ibero-America;

4. The official delegations of the Ibero-American countries participating in the sixth annual Ibero-American Conference of Ministers for Youth, held in Seville from 14 to 19 September 1992, expressed their intention to launch a process of institutionalizing this forum for dialogue, coordination and cooperation on youth affairs; to that end, the President of the Conference concluded a cooperation agreement with the Secretary-General of the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI);

5. As a result of that agreement and acting in accordance with Articles 2.2, 4.11 and 41.11 of the rules of procedure of OEI, the Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ) was established as an international body associated with OEI but endowed with full organizational, operational and financial autonomy;

6. The sixty-fourth meeting of the Governing Council of OEI, held in Bogotá on 5 November 1992, reaffirmed the decision made by the Secretary-General regarding OIJ;

7. For its part, the Governing Council of the Ibero-American Youth Organization (held in Lisbon, 4 to 6 February 1993) decided to establish the Organization's headquarters in Madrid in the same premises housing OEI;

8. The seventh Ibero-American Conference of Ministers of Youth (Punta del Este, 20 to 22 April 1994) adopted the statutes of the International Youth Organization (OIJ), setting out the operational procedures of the Organization;

9. The seventh regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of Ibero-American States, (held in Buenos Aires, 26 to 28 October 1994), on the basis of the provisions of article 8.2 of the statutes and articles 10 and 19 of the rules of procedure, decided to recognize the Ibero-American Youth Organization as an entity associated with the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education Science and Culture, ratify the actions taken by the Secretary-General to date and authorize him to pursue the collaboration between OEI and OIJ;

10. The third Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government (held in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, June 1993) requested the Ibero-American Youth Organization to formulate a regional programme of action for youth development in Latin America, and the fourth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government (held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, July 1994) called upon OIJ to implement that regional programme;

11. During the fifth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government (held in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, October 1995) a cooperation agreement was concluded in the context of the Ibero-American Conference;

12. Without prejudice to the institutional support provided by OEI to OIJ, or to the important tasks and mandates performed by the latter on topics related to Ibero-American cooperation on youth, at present the Ibero-American Youth Organization is lacking sufficient legal recognition under international law from the Ibero-American States involved in its activities and decisions to enable it to make official its existence as an entity with a legal personality under public international law, thereby allowing it to achieve more effectively the purposes for which it was established;

III. Hereby resolve:

Article 1. To establish the Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ) as an international organization dedicated to dialogue, coordination and cooperation on youth affairs within the Ibero-American region, as defined by the Ibero-American Conference of Heads of State and Government.

Article 2. The general and specific purposes of the organization are:

(a) To foster and encourage the efforts of Member States to improve the quality of life of youth in the region;

(b) To facilitate and promote cooperation among States, as well as with international agencies, non-governmental organizations, youth associations and all entities whose work has an impact upon or is related to youth affairs;

(c) To promote the strengthening of government structures for youth and inter-agency and intersectoral coordination of comprehensive youth-related policies;

(d) To develop and implement plans, programmes, projects and activities in accordance with the requirements of member States, in order to contribute to achieving the objectives of their development policies to benefit youth;

(e) To act as a consultative body for the implementation and administration of programmes and projects in the youth sector by national or international agencies or entities;

(f) To act as a permanent consultative and coordinating mechanism for the adoption of common positions and strategies on youth-related issues, both in international forums and organizations and with third countries and country groupings.

Article 3. The Ibero-American Conference of Ministers of Youth and the Governing Council shall be established as organs of OIJ. The Conference may establish such bodies as it may deem necessary.

Article 4. The Ibero-American Youth Organization shall be financed by the voluntary contributions of member States and other contributions.

Article 5. The Ibero-American Youth Organization shall enjoy legal capacity as needed to exercise its functions and achieve its aims.

Article 6. Spanish and Portuguese shall be the official languages of the organization.

Article 7. Amendments to this Document shall be adopted by the Ibero-American Conference of Ministers of Youth. A two-thirds majority of member States shall be required.

Article 8. This Document shall be ratified by the signatory States as soon as possible.

Article 9. This document shall be open for signature by all member States of the Ibero-American Conference of Heads of State and Government until 30 June 1998.

Article 10. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Executive Secretary of the Ibero-American Youth Organization.

Final provision

This Document shall enter into force within 30 days after deposit of the instruments of ratification by at least two countries.

Without prejudice to the foregoing, this Document shall be provisionally applicable from the moment of signature.

In witness whereof, signed at Buenos Aires, 1 August 1996.

Annex III

Headquarters Agreement of the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America

Entry into force of the Headquarters, Privileges and Immunities Agreement between Spain and the Ibero-American Youth Organization, on the legal status of the organization in Spain, done at Madrid on 21 February 2002, whose provisional application was published in the Official Gazette No. 100, dated 26 April 2002.

The Headquarters, Privileges and Immunities Agreement between Spain and the Ibero-American Youth Organization on the legal status of the organization in Spain, done at Madrid on 21 February 2002, entered into force on 20 December 2002, the date of the last note by which the parties report the completion of their respective internal procedures, as set out in article 25.

Is hereby made public for general information in addition to its inclusion in the Official State Gazette No. 100 dated 26 April 2002.

Madrid, 20 June 2003
Julio Núñez Montesinos
Technical Secretary-General

Annex IV

Draft resolution

Observer status for the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Desiring to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.